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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 41st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CISSÉ (Senegal)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 100: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued) (A/49/57 and Corr.1, A/49/58, A/49/75-S/1994/180, A/49/182, 206, 220, 221, 265, 271, 282, 283, 286, A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1, A/49/292, 298, 304, 386, 422, 532 and A/49/591)

(b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued) (A/49/36, A/49/188, A/49/288-S/1994/827, A/49/264-E/1994/113; A/49/293, 311, 321, 337, 366, 410, 415, 416, 512, 528, 545, 582 and 595; A/C.3/49/5, 9, 11 and 17)

(c) HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES (continued) (A/49/82, 85, 88, 168; A/49/183-S/1994/733, A/49/186, A/49/218-S/1994/801, A/49/270-E/1994/116, A/49/273-S/1994/864, A/49/394 and 455, A/49/508-S/1994/1157, A/49/513, 514 and Add.1-2, 538, 539, 543, 544, 594 and Add.1, A/49/641-S/1994/1252, A/49/635 and Add.1, A/49/641-S/1994/1252, A/49/650 and 651; A/C.3/49/15, 16, 17 and 19)

(d) COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION (continued) (A/C.3/49/5, 8 and 10)

1. Mr. WILLIS (Australia) said that the High Commissioner for Human Rights had worked effectively to develop his role in strengthening the human rights system and improving coordination and promotion of human rights activities. It was vital to give him the political support and resources necessary for carrying out his mandate. The Centre for Human Rights had had to cope with a much greater workload without being given increased resources to do so. Accordingly, the Centre must be provided with adequate resources to fulfil its responsibilities and, at the same time, must take steps to maximize its efficiency, keeping under close review its working methods and programme implementation systems.

2. The Centre could work closely with States wishing to improve their performance in the field of human rights and could provide expert advice in accordance with the needs of each country. Setting up effective national human rights machinery was a very practical way to prevent human rights abuses. His Government had committed increased resources to promote the establishment and strengthening of such institutions not only in the Asia-Pacific region, but also in Russia and Latvia.

3. Australia attached great importance to regional human rights arrangements in the Asia-Pacific region. Such arrangements offered valuable opportunities for sharing national experience. There was a growing interest in that region in establishing national institutions and working towards subregional links which could be the basis for a future regional organization. Australia would continue to give strong support to resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Commission on Human Rights on regional arrangements in the Asia-Pacific region

and looked forward to further cooperation among the Governments, national institutions and the Centre for Human Rights.

4. The establishment of an office of the Centre for Human Rights in Cambodia was a good example of what could be done to strengthen human rights infrastructures through advisory services and technical assistance. That process was a long-term one and required the international community's support for the foreseeable future. Notwithstanding the progress made in Cambodia, serious abuses continued and members of the Cambodian armed forces had been involved in a significant number of human rights violations throughout the country. Australia unequivocally condemned the acts of terrorism and banditry perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge, including the killing of ethnic Vietnamese and the taking and killing of hostages. It was crucial to provide adequate resources to enable the Centre and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to fulfil their mandates in Cambodia. He urged the Government of Cambodia to implement the recommendations of the Special Representative, investigate thoroughly allegations of human rights abuses and punish those found guilty.

5. His Government attached importance to the work of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the Right to Development. The Working Group would make a significant contribution to the future direction of the human rights system. The provision of information about basic human rights instruments was vital for creating a global human rights consciousness and preventing human rights abuses. In that regard, Australia particularly welcomed the proposal for a United Nations decade for human rights education and stressed that the Centre for Human Rights, UNESCO and other specialized agencies must ensure good coordination of activities.

6. Mr. BABA-DOUDOU (Benin) said that his country was committed to establishing the necessary legal, political and material conditions to ensure complete enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Benin had acceded to most of the international human rights instruments and was striving, within the limits of its means, to take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with them.

7. Democracy was spreading throughout the African continent. Pluralistic elections had been held in a number of countries and the political opposition carried out its role through a totally free press. In Benin, for example, the separation of powers was ensured through the Constitutional Court. The Centre for Human Rights planned to provide his country with substantial support for the Government's actions aimed at bringing the administration of justice into conformity with international human rights standards and at setting up a programme to train students and members of the police and the army. With the Centre's assistance, Benin sought to develop a human rights culture in a truly democratic society.

8. That commitment, however, must be accompanied by a requisite level of economic and social welfare. Efforts to ensure the full realization of all human rights were impeded by the burdens imposed by external debt, structural

adjustment programmes, low commodity prices, and environmental degradation caused by the dumping of toxic-waste products in Africa. The future of human rights depended to a large extent on the importance given by the international community to the implementation of the right to development. Lastly, Benin expressed satisfaction at the untiring efforts made by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and stressed the need to provide him with greater resources to enable him to carry out his mandate more effectively.

9. Mr. HAAKONSEN (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries (Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark), said that they attached great importance to the full and speedy implementation of the recommendations in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. He supported the conclusions set forth in the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/49/36) and emphasized that the steps taken by the High Commissioner had helped create a new basis for continuing the dialogue on human rights problems and had strengthened the willingness of the various actors to deal constructively with human rights issues. But the High Commissioner required adequate resources as well as the support and cooperation of Member States in order to carry out his broad mandate.

10. The Centre for Human Rights, which was operating under severe budgetary constraints and with a greatly increased workload, also required a substantial increase in resources. At the same time, the Centre itself should take steps to eliminate administrative and managerial deficiencies. A higher degree of transparency in the Centre's financial and administrative affairs, with the use of external expertise when necessary, was called for. The Nordic countries supported efforts to enhance the effectiveness of machinery for promoting and protecting human rights. Streamlining and rationalization should, however, be pursued only to the extent to which they enhanced the effectiveness of the human rights mechanisms. Duplication should be avoided and maximum use made of the "comparative advantages" of the various mechanisms. He stressed the need for optimum coordination between the human rights mechanisms and felt that the convening of joint meetings of the various special rapporteurs, experts and heads of working groups and treaty bodies should be encouraged as an important step in that direction. Human rights aspects should be taken into consideration system-wide in order to integrate them into all relevant United Nations activities.

11. Democracy, good governance and full enjoyment of human rights were indicators of and prerequisites for development in the broadest sense of the word. True development required that individuals and groups took an active part in decision-making and development in their own countries. Every individual had the right to enjoy the fruits of development and every Government had the obligation to strive to bring about the realization of that right. A concerted effort must be made at the international level to eliminate the obstacles to development. The Nordic countries would participate actively in work aimed at promoting the right to development and implementing the recommendations set forth in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, particularly those relating to specific rights and freedoms. Lastly, he urged those States that

had not acceded to the fundamental human rights instruments to consider doing so.

12. Mr. PORTALE (Chile) stressed the need to strengthen activities aimed at preventing serious human rights situations in specific geographical areas. The work carried out by the High Commissioner in Burundi was a good example of results achieved through speedy monitoring and technical assistance in potentially dangerous human rights situations. Providing consultancy services and technical and financial assistance through the Centre for Human Rights was a vital element in the work of the High Commissioner. Offices of the Centre should be established in the relevant countries in order to implement long-term consultancy programmes.

13. The resources of the United Nations human rights system should be increased significantly in order to help democracies in developing countries consolidate their progress in that area. It was particularly important to support the incorporation of international human rights standards into domestic legislation, the modernization of judicial and penal systems, the introduction of human rights issues at all levels of education, the training of police, military and prison personnel, and the establishment of national institutions to promote and protect human rights.

14. The investigation of human rights violations in the world and the moral sanctioning of regimes responsible for grave and systematic violations was a great achievement by the United Nations human rights system and should be maintained and improved. Greater technical and financial assistance should be provided to States that undertook the path of democracy and respect for law. Technical capacity and material resources were necessary in order to consolidate democracy and respect for human rights.

15. His delegation stressed the importance of promoting economic, social and cultural rights, particularly the right to development. Ensuring respect for those rights was in the interests of both developing and developed countries. The High Commissioner should encourage the efforts being made by various United Nations bodies, such as the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the Right to Development, to establish indicators and identify obstacles to universal realization of the right to development. His delegation hoped that the High Commissioner, together with the various relevant United Nations bodies, would provide guidelines to help overcome those obstacles in the near future.

16. Mr. JESSEN-PETERSEN (Director, New York Liaison Office, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that 1994 had been another difficult year for the world's refugees: the number of refugees had risen and very few refugees had been able to return home, owing to the lack of stability and safety in their countries of origin. Most refugees and internally displaced persons were victims of both human rights abuses and internal conflicts. Human rights violations were a major cause of the flight of refugees as well as an obstacle to their safe and voluntary return home. Safeguarding human rights in countries of origin was thus critical for both the prevention and the solution of refugee problems. The work of human rights bodies and the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was closely linked, as recognized by the General Assembly, which had called for greater cooperation among them.

17. UNHCR pursued a comprehensive strategy to deal with the constant flow of refugees and its causes by offering protection and solutions. That entailed responding to situations in the countries of asylum as well as those of origin. In order to be successful the strategy must be purely humanitarian and impartial. The focus on the country of origin was a fairly recent development. With the consent or mandate of the General Assembly or Security Council it might be possible to intervene early and provide protection and assistance in situ. Through such action a refugee problem might be prevented from emerging or spreading, or perhaps contained, thereby allowing time for political efforts to resolve the conflict. An international presence in the affected country was the only means of ensuring prevention and protection, as well as respect for human rights.

18. UNHCR could assist the internally displaced, and its involvement could thus help to prevent or solve refugee problems. The General Assembly had recognized the experience and expertise of UNHCR in such matters, as borne out by General Assembly resolution 48/116, which stipulated that UNHCR should provide assistance at the specific request of the Secretary-General or competent principal organs of the United Nations, taking into account the complementarities of the mandates and expertise of other relevant organizations.

19. UNHCR's presence in countries of origin also allowed it to monitor the safe return of refugees. Voluntary repatriation, where possible, was the ideal solution; hence the current emphasis on the refugee's right to return home in safety and dignity, and it was the responsibility of the country of origin to create the necessary conditions for that to take place. UNHCR could play only a limited role in monitoring the safety of returnees; it was important to develop effective human rights systems which in the long term would make for an environment of confidence and stability.

20. For some time UNHCR had been advocating a greater operational role and capacity for the United Nations human rights machinery. The presence of human rights monitors in countries of origin during conflicts and in post-conflict situations was essential in safeguarding respect for human rights. Likewise, there should be a human rights component in United Nations peace-keeping operations - lessons must be learned from the Organization's experience in El Salvador and Cambodia. In that connection, he welcomed the human rights involvement in Rwanda as part of the comprehensive response aimed at bringing peace and stability to that country and enabling the return of refugees. Despite its focus on operational aspects of human rights, it was not the responsibility of UNHCR to expose the perpetrators of violations. Its task in protecting victims was purely humanitarian; although close cooperation with human rights monitors was desirable, their distinctive mandates should be respected. UNHCR was seeking to intensify its cooperation with the United Nations human rights machinery and share its experience and expertise with the High Commissioner and the Centre for Human Rights.

21. Mr. JUNEJO (Pakistan) said that the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the establishment of the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights marked a turning-point in - but not the end of - the quest for global and national approaches to promote and protect human rights and freedoms. The World Conference on Human Rights had provided an opportunity to discuss some of the more divisive issues, yet disagreement in many vital areas persisted. Much work remained to be done, not least in achieving consensus on the relationship between development and human rights and in promoting the concept of individual responsibility for grave crimes against humanity. Moreover, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action had not produced specific recommendations for the streamlining, rationalization and strengthening of existing human rights machinery, it being impossible to reconcile the diverging views of the two main groups - those advocating the curtailment of human rights machinery and those trying to safeguard the existing achievements.

22. The special procedures established by the Economic and Social Council for investigating human rights violations required radical reform. That established under Council resolution 1235 (XLII) failed to subject powerful States to scrutiny. Through a highly politicized and biased process, only the smaller countries, or those espousing a divergent ideology, were targeted, while some large and influential countries carried on well-documented and grave violations of human rights with impunity. Such a situation eroded the credibility of the United Nations. Moreover, the confidential procedure laid down in Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) was neither credible nor effective. It focused on individual cases rather than on situations revealing a consistent pattern of gross violations. Once again, mostly smaller States were targeted. The procedure needed to be accelerated and rendered more objective.

23. Pakistan believed that it was the responsibility of the High Commissioner to remove such inequities, and regretted that his mandate regarding the prevention of gross and consistent violations had been limited. Notwithstanding those constraints, the High Commissioner should institute an early warning system against impending emergencies and should advise the Secretary-General of them. With regard to promoting a balanced approach between economic, social and cultural rights on the one hand and civil and political rights on the other, Pakistan appreciated the initiatives taken by the High Commissioner. The latter enjoyed the confidence of the entire membership, and temptations to politicize his office would be divisive. The broad and timely action taken by the High Commissioner in Rwanda and Burundi was proof of the effective role he intended to play in preventing human rights crises. Pakistan was confident that his advocacy of human rights, his impartiality and his efforts to improve coordination of the human rights machinery would have a far-reaching impact on the gradual realization of all human rights, including the right to development.

24. Although the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action was a historic document, it concealed deep divisions. An alarming trend was emerging whereby the developed countries were defending civil and political rights, whereas the advocacy of the right to development was being left exclusively to the developing countries. Powerful States, which were in a position to make momentous decisions for breaking the vicious circle of poverty, underdevelopment

and dependency, should not shirk their responsibilities. What was needed was a genuine, substantive dialogue and concerted action on human rights, democracy and development. Abject poverty - the fate of the majority of the human race - was the grossest violation of human rights. Hundreds of millions of poor people around the globe were hoping for a mere chance to survive, often denied them because of the failure of national systems or international apathy. The international community must move forward to help them.

25. The most shocking human rights violations took place during armed conflicts and civil strife, which not only threatened international peace and security, but spawned other crimes including genocide, torture and summary executions. Such conflicts also caused refugee movements. By employing preventive mechanisms of arbitration, peace-keeping and peacemaking, the United Nations could prevent human rights crises or stem their further deterioration. But attitudes towards international human rights organizations must change drastically. The condescending or even hostile attitude towards non-governmental organizations must be replaced by encouragement of their participation in policy-making.

26. The Serbian aggression continued unchecked under the indecisive gaze of the international community, which condoned the crimes of the aggressors through its inadequate response and procrastination. The continued suffering of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina showed the fragility of the consensus on a universal approach towards human rights. In theory, it was easy to uphold the principle of the universality of human rights, but in practice the challenge required courage and concrete action.

27. Massive violations of human rights persisted with complete impunity in Jammu and Kashmir, as confirmed by many reputable and independent international human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and several Indian human rights organizations. All human rights instruments had been violated in Kashmir; all humanitarian norms had been flouted.

28. The international community must prevail upon India to desist from the misguided policy which had brought so much suffering to the people in that region. India must be made to respect the human rights of the Kashmiri people. He hoped that the efforts of the international community in its quest for greater human freedom and individual dignity would assume universal scope. Its responsibility would be discharged only when oppressed people who, owing to vested interests, had remained outside the ambit of human sympathy, would finally be given the international community's urgent support.

29. Mr. WANG Xue Xian (China), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative speaking on behalf of the European Union at an earlier meeting had made unwarranted attacks on China's human rights situation which must be refuted. In recent years, representatives of the European Union had used the meetings for repeated attacks on China, but their methods had deteriorated. They based their accusations on false statements and rumours and had to rack their brains year after year to concoct anti-China propaganda.

heir skills in politicizing human rights issues and practising double standards hould none the less be given due recognition.

0. For the sake of the Third Committee and the United Nations, China felt it ecessary to expose the real intent of the European Union's interest in the uman rights situations of other countries. The European Union representative's tatement gave the impression that he was a champion of human rights, yet his ation was the very one that had launched the most brutal world war in history ntailing the most appalling violations of human rights. Certain countries in he European Union had once been responsible for the colonial rule and plunder f countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, depriving the inhabitants of heir dignity, dividing States and causing ethnic conflicts. They had left ehind problems which still hampered the social, economic and cultural evelopment of those countries and prevented their peoples from enjoying human ights. In the countries which regarded themselves as human rights defenders, enophobia and racial and gender discrimination were prevalent, and serious uman rights violations left tens of thousands of homeless people, drug addicts nd prostitutes. They should be ashamed of making comments about countries in hich they had caused unspeakable suffering.

31. The human rights situation in China was by no means perfect, but many difficulties were the vestiges of former colonial and imperialist rule. Under the leadership of the Chinese Government, the Chinese people had finally won independence, dignity and freedom, and over the decades the country's political, economic and cultural progress had attracted world-wide renown. Its democracy and legal system had been constantly improved. All ethnic groups coexisted peacefully. The Chinese people were better able to exercise their human rights and freedoms than ever before, as was recognized by all those who were not prejudiced.

32. The reason that some countries failed to acknowledge the progress made along those lines in China was that the Chinese people would not accept their values and social systems. On the pretext of taking interest in China's human rights situation, such countries were exerting political pressure in an attempt to impede development and compel the Chinese people to renounce the system they had chosen. Such efforts were in vain, for the Chinese people would never yield to outside pressure.

33. The Chinese Government had always supported and actively participated in all activities carried out in accordance with the United Nations Charter. It stood ready to cooperate in the field of human rights on the basis of mutual respect and equality. However, China strongly objected to any State or group of States interfering in its internal affairs in the name of safeguarding human rights.

34. Mr. AL-DOURI (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right to reply, said he wondered how the representative of Norway had ascertained the veracity of the "well-documented information" on human rights violations in Iraq to which he had referred in his statement. Surely it would have been more appropriate to seek information from the Government of Iraq. His delegation was surprised that

Norway, a country with no legitimate interest in Iraq or colonialist nostalgia, should launch such groundless accusations. He failed to understand the Norwegian delegate's claims of human rights violations by Iraq against Kurds in the north of the country, since that territory had not been government-controlled for some four years. As to the generalizations made regarding the Shiites, he pointed out that Shiite Muslims were found not only in southern cities but throughout the country and in particular in Baghdad. He imagined that the Norwegian delegate did not even know why they were persecuted, or whether he was aware of the difference between Sunni and Shiite Muslims.

35. Iraq regretted that Norway had not taken a more objective approach, in line with its humanitarian tradition, and had not focused on the 20 million people who were currently suffering the effects of the unjust economic embargo against Iraq.

36. Mr. MUCH (Germany), speaking in exercise of the right of reply on behalf of the European Union, said that the very tone of the Chinese delegate's statement had disqualified it.

AGENDA ITEM 99: REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS (continued) (A/C.3/49/L.15 and L.18/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.18/Rev.1, entitled "Comprehensive consideration and review of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and related migratory movements"

37. Mr. PARSHIKOV (Russian Federation), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that the need for a regional conference on refugees in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and other relevant neighbouring countries was due to the emergence of serious problems in that region, with large numbers of refugees and other forced migrants fleeing from persecution and economic chaos.

38. He said the following revisions had been made to the text: in the second preambular paragraph the words "countries of the" had been added before the words "Commonwealth of Independent States"; in paragraph 1, a comma and the word "regional" had been added after the word "intergovernmental"; in paragraph 2, the words "countries of the" had been added before the words "Commonwealth of Independent States", and a comma and the word "regional" had been added after the word "intergovernmental"; and the whole of paragraph 3 had been deleted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.15, entitled "New international humanitarian order"

39. The CHAIRMAN announced that Italy, Mauritius and the Philippines had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

40. Mr. ZOUBI (Jordan), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, said that the following revisions had been made to the text: in paragraph 1, the word "expressing" had been altered to "expresses"; in paragraph 3, the words "within

own countries" had been added after the words "concern to them"; in aph 4, the words "Governments as well as" had been added before the word nmental"; and in paragraph 5, the words "and to report" had been replaced order to report".

raft resolution A/C.3/49/L.15, as orally revised, was adopted.

r. VAUGHN-FENN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), ted by Mr. KUEHL (United States of America), said that although his tion had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, it considered that port of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 5 was unnecessary and involve duplication of work in a situation where staff resources were d. The subject-matter could be appropriately dealt with in the Secretary-l's annual report on humanitarian questions.

ITEM 98: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL (continued) (A/C.3/49/L.13/Rev.1)

resolution A/C.3/49/L.13/Rev.1, entitled "International action to combat buse and illicit production and trafficking"

The CHAIRMAN announced that Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, , China, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Iceland, India, ius, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, and Uruguay had become sponsors of aft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.13/Rev.1 was adopted.

Mr. BARRETO (Peru) said that, although his delegation had joined the nsus on the draft resolution, it would have preferred paragraph 14 of I not to have been included or at least to have given a more balanced e of the economic and social aspects. His Government's national plan ling the drugs problem included efforts to control production and prevent t drug cultivation; the plan involved crop substitution as well as the tion of legal activities on the part of those currently involved in growing t crops. He called for programmes to promote comprehensive social and ic development on a sustainable basis, with international support. The cation of illegal crops should supplement those efforts.

A ITEM 101: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN (continued)
3/49/L.22, L.23 and L.24)

resolution A/C.3/49/L.22, entitled "Need to adopt efficient international res for the prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child itution and child pornography"

The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that paragraph 11 had been revised to "Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Centre for Human s be provided within existing resources with the staff and other resources

it requires to assist the Special Rapporteur and the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights in the effective discharge of their mandate;".

47. Mr. BARRETO (Peru), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, said that Armenia had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, and announced that, in paragraph 7, the word "commends" had been replaced by "takes note of".

48. Mr. REZVANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) welcomed the inclusion of children's rights in the agenda for the first time and the increasing determination to defend the rights of the most vulnerable and least vocal segment of humanity. Persistent violations of those rights had compelled the international community to give renewed attention to that most important issue; it was generally agreed that an urgent, comprehensive approach to the problem was essential.

49. The current state of affairs was appalling. Millions of children faced poverty, hunger, sickness, displacement, armed conflict, violence, prostitution, exploitation, and even the possibility of being sold. Amid such pain and suffering, girl children were made to carry the heaviest burden. Poverty and lack of economic growth in developing countries was the greatest factor in the exploitation of children and the violation of their rights, and the full realization of those rights would continue to be meaningless so long as poverty was not dealt with. It was incumbent upon the United Nations to take full account of children's issues whenever it considered family-related matters.

50. All the different types of violations of children's rights had their roots in widespread poverty, economic exploitation and the instability of family structures due to increasing divorce and the absence of ethical and spiritual values. The family, as the fundamental unit of society, should enjoy the best possible support and assistance.

51. His Government had formulated a national plan of action following the adoption in 1990 of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children. In its examination of children's health in his country, UNICEF had concluded that some of the goals set forth in the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration would be met even before the year 2000. His Government's policy regarding elementary education would ensure the expansion of facilities into all areas of the country, and the Iranian Constitution and judicial system were based on principles that strictly prohibited attempts to exploit children.

52. His Government saw supporting children and protecting their rights as a fundamental obligation, especially in the case of orphaned children. Protection of children constituted an investment in social well-being, and would lead to other benefits; it was essential that nations should allocate resources to their welfare.

53. Mr. MAUBERT (France), Mr. FERNANDEZ (Spain) and Mr. PRACANA (Portugal) announced that their delegations wished to join the sponsors of the revised draft resolution.

54. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) proposed that, in the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, the words "and their organs" should be deleted. The issue of the sale of children for the purpose of harvesting their organs was a most sensitive issue: if evidence of such a horrible crime were to arise, his Government would be the first to condemn it, and in the harshest terms. The Special Rapporteur had failed to demonstrate that such activities were indeed taking place; however, by assumption and innuendo, the report placed all Governments under suspicion of permitting those activities. His Government had found no credible evidence anywhere in the world that such a phenomenon was taking place. The Special Rapporteur had conceded in his report (A/49/478) that there was no significant evidence of such practices; the whole question should be reconsidered, and until such evidence was found, that type of reference should not be included in the draft resolution.

55. Mr. BARRETO (Peru) said that the wording of the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution reflected the spirit of paragraph 21 of the Vienna Declaration. Consensus on the question was very important, and he urged the United States to withdraw its amendment.

56. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba), supported by Mr. THOMPSON (Jamaica), Mr. NASCIMIENTO (Brazil), Mr. PORTALE (Chile) and Mr. VANNINI (Nicaragua), associated himself with the previous speaker's appeal to the United States representative to maintain the consensus achieved in the Committee by withdrawing his proposed amendment, and expressed surprise that wording identical to that found in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights should be called into question.

57. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that the consensus language in those instances had been adopted before the Special Rapporteur's report on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/49/478) had been issued. He therefore urged the adoption of his proposed amendment, since his Government attached great importance to the issue in question.

58. The CHAIRMAN, bearing in mind that the proposal had not been accepted by consensus, asked the United States representative whether he wished to register a reservation on the point concerned or request a vote.

59. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that, unless a delegation objecting to his proposal requested a vote, his amendment should be adopted. In his view, the proposal was a positive one, and he did not feel obliged to request a vote.

60. The CHAIRMAN therefore suggested that a recorded vote should be taken.

61. Mr. BARRETO (Peru), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, opposed the Chairman's suggestion; if the United States representative did not request a vote on his amendment, the draft resolution as it stood without the proposed amendment should be adopted without a vote.

62. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said he therefore requested a recorded vote on his proposed amendment.

63. Mr. BARRETO (Peru), supported by Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba), emphasized the need for consensus and urged the Committee members to vote against the proposed amendment.

64. A recorded vote was taken on the amendment proposed by the United States.

In favour: Israel, United States of America.

Against: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Nigeria.

65. The amendment proposed by the United States was rejected by 139 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

66. Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.22 was adopted.

67. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that he had joined the consensus on the adoption of the draft resolution, although he did not wish to accept language which implied that the sale of children was a world-wide phenomenon.

There was no evidence to support that myth, which the United Nations should not be involved in perpetuating. He pointed out that United States citizens had been attacked in some countries on the basis of rumours that they were involved in the sale of children. He reserved his right to explain his vote in the plenary Assembly.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.23, entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child"

68. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.3/49/L.27) and announced that the following additional countries wished to become sponsors: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Algeria, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Paraguay, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, the Sudan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia and Yemen.

69. Mr. ELIASSON (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, said that the following countries had also informed him of their wish to co-sponsor the draft resolution: Armenia, the Bahamas, Bhutan, Cambodia, Guinea, Jordan and Suriname. In view of the overwhelming number of sponsors, he was sure that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

70. Mr. BENTALL (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), noting that the funds entailed by paragraph 15 of the draft resolution had now been provided, said that his country now also wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

71. Mr. ASIRDIN (Indonesia), speaking in explanation of his delegation's position, said that the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child would be enhanced by increasing to three the number of its annual sessions, as recommended in paragraph 13 of the draft resolution, and by rationalizing that work with a view to the more effective and efficient fulfilment of its mandate.

72. Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.23 was adopted.

73. Mr. MISAWA (Japan), while fully supporting the substance of the draft resolution, pointed out that the heavy workload of the Committee on the Rights of the Child was attributable to the fact that States parties were required to submit their first reports within two years of ratifying the Convention. He therefore suggested that the question of the number of annual sessions could be reviewed once those reports had been considered, since that Committee's workload would thereafter diminish.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.24, entitled "The plight of street children"

74. The CHAIRMAN announced that the following additional countries wished to sponsor the draft resolution: Albania, Angola, Belarus, Cambodia, Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Honduras, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nepal, Nigeria and Senegal.

75. Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.24 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.20, entitled "United Nations Year for Tolerance"

76. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Philippines and the Republic of Korea had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

77. Ms. FERTEKLIGIL (Turkey) said that the following countries also wished to co-sponsor the draft resolution: Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Panama, the Republic of Korea and Uruguay.

78. Mrs. LOPES de ROSA (Guinea-Bissau) and Mr. SOTIROV (Bulgaria) added that they too wished to join the sponsors.

79. Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.20 was adopted.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.